

Dear FCC Commissioners & Staff:

I am the President and Owner of an ISP in SouthWest Michigan. I originally opened my ISP simply because there was no connectivity in my service areas. Even now, 4 years later, the larger ISPs still do not provide local coverage.

I also like to try to give back to the community. Since opening I have given free service to townships, village councils, police and fire departments, ambulance services and local churches of all denominations. This saves much needed funds to help community funds and organizations.

Being in what would be considered Rural Michigan, there are no traditional methods for achieving broadband. The telephone and cable infrastructure does not exist to provide DSL or cable modems. In light of this we have rolled out wireless internet, building our own infrastructure to provide high speed Internet. The reception has been tepid, however we are the only method for local consumers and businesses to connect faster than dialup modem.

I have asked local telecommunication company representatives about DSL in most of our coverage range and an estimated timeline. The last I heard was an estimate from a Verizon rep that it would be 2010 before any new infrastructure changes took place. The cable company doesn't predict any cable modems because of a lack of demand.

However, in the areas that DSL is provided, it is not profitable for me to offer it. The current rates Ameritech charges make it near impossible to make any profit out of the offering.

I do not have the resources to fight the tariff that Ameritech has filed that allows it to get away with charging ISPs a wholesale rate of \$40 for access to the network. I believe the true cost is probably a great deal less than that. However, I also do not believe that the answer to this problem is simply to allow Ameritech to stop selling access to the network at all, or to take away the requirements that are supposed to be preventing Ameritech from discriminating.

The answer is for the FCC to make a good faith effort to uncover the discrimination (whether it is in pricing or provisioning) and put an end to it. Until the FCC has demonstrated that it is willing to do this for ISPs, any talk about lifting the rules for monopolies like Ameritech is premature.

I hope that you will take my comments seriously - I am sending a copy of this letter to my Congressman as well.

Sincerely,

Keith Pitcher
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